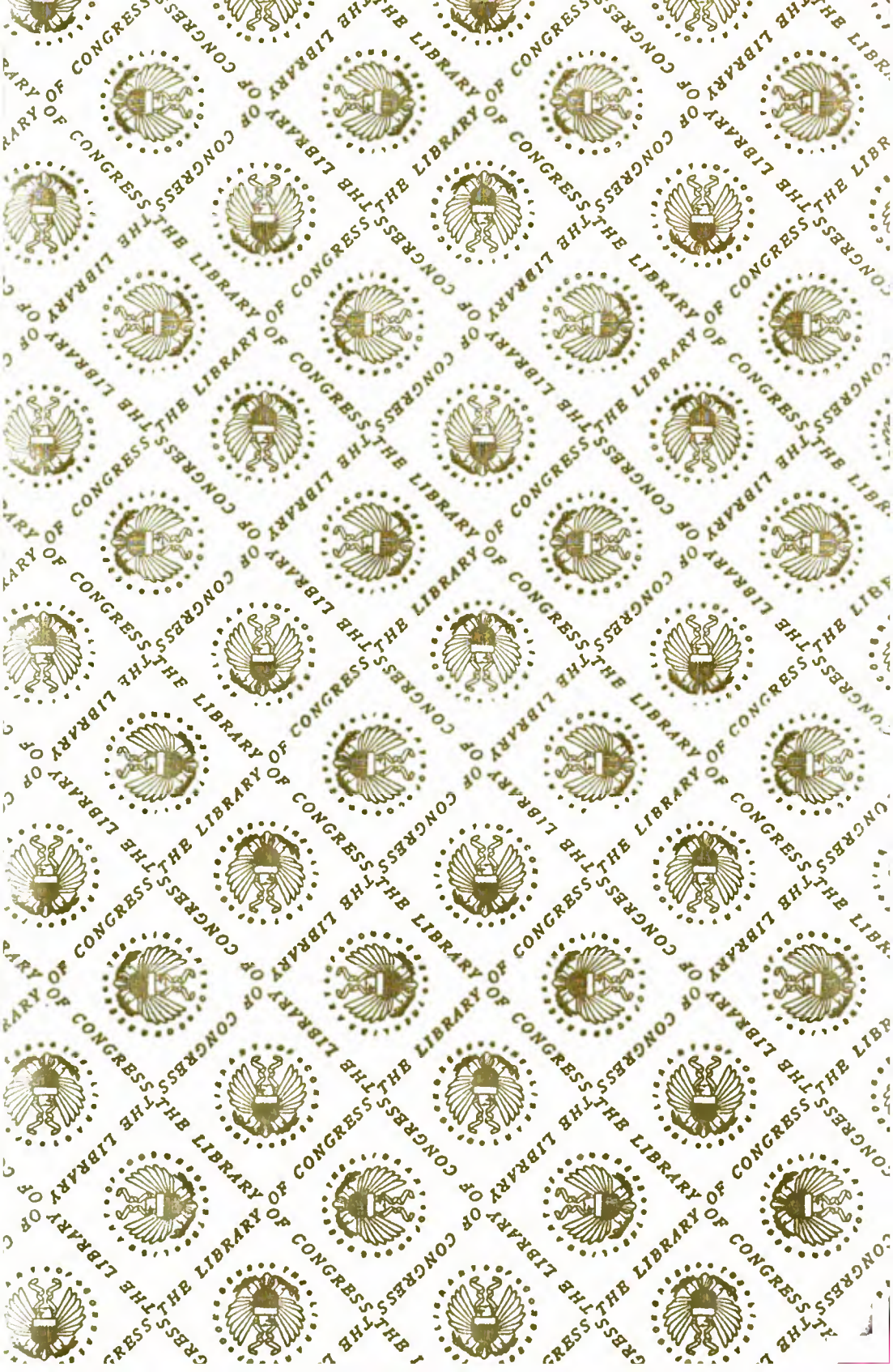


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, INC.



HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

U.S. Congress, House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H.R. 6348

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
INC.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1982

Serial No. 48



Printed for the use of the Committee on the Judiciary

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WASHINGTON : 1982

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, INC.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1982

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
*Washington, D.C.***

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 2 p.m., in room 2226, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Sam B. Hall, Jr. (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Hall, Kindness, Mazzoli, and Moorhead.

Staff present: William P. Shattuck, counsel; James Wade Harrison, assistant counsel; and James B. McMahon, associate counsel.

Mr. HALL. Next on the agenda is H.R. 6348, and the companion Senate bill, S. 2215, to recognize the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Inc.

[A copy of H.R. 6348 follows:]

(1)

97TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6348

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LEATH of Texas (for himself, Mr. MONTGOMERY, and Mr. HAMMERSCHMIDT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

CHARTER

SECTION 1. The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Incorporated, organized and incorporated under the Nonprofit Corporation Act of the District of Columbia, is hereby recognized as such and is granted a charter.

1

POWERS

2

SEC. 2. The National Association of State Directors of
Veterans Affairs, Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as the
“corporation”) shall have only those powers granted to it
through its bylaws and articles of incorporation filed in the
State or States in which it is incorporated and subject to the
laws of such State or States.

8

OBJECTS AND PURPOSES OF CORPORATION

9

SEC. 3. The objects and purposes for which the corpora-
tion is organized shall be—

11

(1) to provide a medium for the exchange between
veterans and veterans’ organizations of ideas and infor-
mation,

14

(2) to foster a better understanding of the national
veterans’ problems,

16

(3) to promote uniformity and equality of service
to veterans in all the States and territories,

18

(4) to maintain an interest in all veterans’ affairs,

19

(5) to disseminate advice and information to veter-
ans or their dependents, regardless of their membership
affiliation with any veterans’ organizations,

22

(6) to actively participate in the national conven-
tions of congressionally chartered veterans’ organiza-
tions and service organizations recognized by the Vet-
erans’ Administration, as well as to perform liaison

25

1 work and to cooperate with these organizations at their
2 national, local, or Washington office headquarters, and
3 (7) to maintain close liaison with the four
4 branches of the armed services of the United States
5 wherever located.

6 The corporation shall function as an educational, patriotic,
7 civic, historical, and research organization as authorized by
8 the laws of the State or States wherein it is incorporated.

9 **SERVICE OF PROCESS**

10 **SEC. 4.** With respect to service of process, the corpora-
11 tion shall comply with the laws of the States in which it is
12 incorporated and those States in which it carries on its activi-
13 ties in furtherance of its corporate purposes.

14 **MEMBERSHIP**

15 **SEC. 5.** Eligibility for membership in the corporation
16 and the rights and privileges of members shall be as provided
17 in the bylaws of the corporation.

18 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS; COMPOSITION; RESPONSIBILITIES**

19 **SEC. 6.** The board of directors of the corporation and
20 the responsibilities thereof shall be as provided in the articles
21 of incorporation of the corporation and in conformity with the
22 laws of the State or States in which it is incorporated.

23 **OFFICERS OF CORPORATION**

24 **SEC. 7.** The officers of the corporation, and the election
25 of such officers shall be as is provided in the articles of incor-

1 poration of the corporation and in conformity with the laws of
2 the State or States wherein it is incorporated.

3

RESTRICTIONS

4 SEC. 8. (a) No part of the income or assets of the corpo-
5 ration shall inure to any member, officer, or director of the
6 corporation or be distributed to any such person during the
7 life of this charter. Nothing in this subsection shall be con-
8 strued to prevent the payment of reasonable compensation to
9 the officers of the corporation or reimbursement for actual
10 necessary expenses in amounts approved by the board of di-
11 rectors.

12 (b) The corporation shall not make any loan to any offi-
13 cer, director, or employee of the corporation.

14 (c) The corporation and any officer and director of the
15 corporation, acting as such officer or director, shall not con-
16 tribute to, support or otherwise participate in any political
17 activity or in any manner attempt to influence legislation.

18 (d) The corporation shall have no power to issue any
19 shares of stock nor to declare or pay any dividends.

20 (e) The corporation shall not claim congressional
21 approval or Federal Government authority for any of its
22 activities.

1

LIABILITY

2

SEC. 9. The corporation shall be liable for the acts of its
3 officers and agents when acting within the scope of their
4 authority.

5

BOOKS AND RECORDS; INSPECTION

6

SEC. 10. The corporation shall keep correct and com-
7 plete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of
8 any proceeding of the corporation involving any of its mem-
9 bers, the board of directors, or any committee having authori-
10 ty under the board of directors. The corporation shall keep at
11 its principal office a record of the names and addresses of all
12 members having the right of vote. All books and records of
13 such corporation may be inspected by any member having the
14 right to vote, or by any agent or attorney of such member,
15 for any proper purpose, at any reasonable time. Nothing in
16 this section shall be construed to contravene any applicable
17 State law.

18

AUDIT OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

19

SEC. 11. The first section of the Act entitled "An Act
20 to provide for audit of accounts of private corporations estab-
21 lished under Federal law", approved August 30, 1964 (36
22 U.S.C. 1101), is amended by adding at the end thereof the
23 following:

24

"(57) National Association of State Directors of
25 Veterans Affairs, Incorporated."

Mr. HALL. For the purpose of the record, we will include the written statement. Mr. Leo Anderson.

TESTIMONY OF A. LEO ANDERSON, WASHINGTON LIAISON OFFICER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, INC., ACCOMPANIED BY LT. COL. DAVID J. PASSAMANECK, GENERAL COUNSEL

Mr. ANDERSON. David Passamaneck, general counsel.

Mr. HALL. In order to act on the bill we must have four people. I had intended to mark this bill up today, but we do not have enough people, but we will listen to the testimony that you might submit and try to mark this bill up as soon as we can meet with the required quorum.

Mr. ANDERSON. I understand, sir.

Mr. HALL. We are happy to have you here. This is a bill introduced by Mr. Martin Leath, Sonny Montgomery, and Congressman Hammerschmidt to recognize the organization known as the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Inc. You may commence and give your statement.

Mr. ANDERSON. I appreciate the opportunity of being here. For the purposes of brevity, I wonder if I could just read the summary of the statement, and ask that the remainder of the testimony be included in the record.

The bill, H.R. 6348, 97th Congress, would grant a Federal charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs [NASDVA], founded in 1946. NASDVA is the professional organization of the directors and equivalent administrators of the State, territorial, and District of Columbia veterans assistance agencies. The services provided by the constituent veterans affairs offices are available to veterans and their families regardless of their affiliation with special interest groups, their time or branch of service, their background, or their experience in the armed services.

The organization is entirely supported by dues, and the chartering will impose no measurable cost on the Government.

NASDVA is the only organization representing the various State and territorial veterans affairs offices.

May I suggest that the rest of the statement be just included in the record, sir.

Mr. HALL. It will be admitted as you have submitted it to the reporter.

Mr. ANDERSON. Thank you, sir. If you have any questions, I would be delighted to respond to them.

[The prepared statement of A. Leo Anderson follows:]

The National Association of



STATE DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, INC.

A. LEO ANDERSON
Washington Liaison Officer

DAVID J. PASSAMANECK
General Counsel

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 6348, 97th CONGRESS

The bill, H.R. 6348, 97th Congress would grant a Federal Charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA), founded in 1946. NASDVA is the professional organization of the directors and equivalent administrators of the state, territorial and District of Columbia veterans assistance agencies. The services provided by the constituent veterans affairs offices are available to veterans and their families regardless of their affiliation with special interest groups, their time or branch of service, their background, or their experience in the armed services.

The organization is entirely supported by dues and the chartering will impose no measurable cost on the government. NASDVA is the only organization representing the various state and territorial veterans affairs offices.

STATEMENT OF A. LEO ANDERSON IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 6348, 97th CONGRESS, A BILL TO GRANT FEDERAL CHARTER TO NASDVA.

The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, (NASDVA) was founded in 1946, and incorporated in the District of Columbia on March 12, 1973. The regular membership of the organization is composed of the directors or chief administrative officers of those agencies of the several states, territories and the District of Columbia concerned with the veterans entitlement and benefit programs and veterans affairs in general. These directors are normally appointed by the governors of the states and the chief executives of the territories and the District of Columbia. The organization also includes as non-voting associate members, the subordinate employees of the state, territory, and the District of Columbia agencies and members of veterans service organizations recognized by the Veterans Administration for accreditation as representatives in connection with claims for VA benefits.

The NASDVA had its inception at a conference of representatives of most of the states, sponsored by the U.S. Army Air Corps at Mitchell Field, Long Island, New York in early 1945. A few months later, a similar meeting was held in Washington, D.C. This meeting was called by General Graves B. Erskine, head of the newly formed U.S. Re-training and Re-employment Administration. Practically all the states were represented, consistent with a directory and summary of state veterans programs, published in 1945 by the Council of State Governments and encouraging each state to provide services to veterans returning from World War II.

Meeting in Washington in the Fall of 1946, again under sponsorship of General Erskine, the NASDVA was formed by the state directors. Homer C. Bredney, the Administrator of the Illinois Veterans Commission and a distinguished representative of, and worker for, veterans interests in that state was elected Chairman of the organization and a call was issued for the first National Convention to be held at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago, Illinois on June 21 and 22, 1947. At the Washington organizational conference, the following Declaration of Purposes was adopted.

"The purposes of the Association are to provide a medium for the exchange of ideas and information; to facilitate reciprocal State Services; to foster better understanding of the national veterans problems; to secure uniformity and equality of service in all the States and Territories; to maintain an interest in all veterans' legislation."

"The Association recognizes the great worth and merit of all existing congressionally chartered veterans' organizations, and asserts a willingness to cooperate with such organizations. It further declares a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of all veterans, regardless of organizational affiliation or the lack of it."

The first National Convention held in Chicago, Illinois, June 21 and 22, 1947, was attended by the state directors of 23 states. At this convention it was decided to meet in Washington, D.C., again at the same time as the next Rehabilitation Conference of the American Legion to complete arrangements for the next National Convention. This practice, alternating from year to year between the Washington Conferences of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, has been maintained ever since. These Washington meetings have provided a unique and valuable medium for the exchange of views between the officials charged with responsibility for administering veterans programs at federal and state levels in the legislative and executive areas. At both the annual National Convention and the Washington Conference, distinguished and high ranking officials of the Government and the service organizations speak to the delegates. Among those speaking before early meetings of NASDVA were Harold Russell the organizer of AMVETS, Col. Louis Johnson, then chairman of the West Virginia Department of Veterans Affairs, and formerly secretary of Defense, under President Truman. At the seventh annual convention in Ardmore, Oklahoma in 1953, no less than 15 key Veterans Administration officials addressed the gathering.

Starting in 1964, the practice of presenting a "President's Award" and a "Man of the Year Award" annually at the Convention and Washington Conference, respectively, has recognized the service to veterans by distinguished Americans in the Government and private life. The first recipient of the "Man of the Year Award" was Honorable Olin E. "Tiger" Teague, long-time Chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the United States House of Representatives. In 1967 the "Man of the Year Award" was presented at the White House to President Lyndon B. Johnson, by Melvin L. Jacobson, President of NASDVA. Jacobson was at that time serving as a member of the U.S. Veterans Advisory Commission.

The Washington Conference in March 1970 was attended by the National Commanders of 4 leading veterans organizations and addressed by the newly appointed Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Donald E. Johnson, himself a Past National Commander of the American Legion. Other, more recent recipients of the Association's "Man of the Year Award" have included, Congressman Ray Roberts, Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, Congresswoman Margaret Heckler, Congressman E. Ross Adair, Senator Alan Cranston, Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neil, Senator Strom Thurmond and Congressman Peter W. Rodino.

The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs is the only organization representing the directors and chiefs of the official veterans service agencies of the states, territories and the District of Columbia. The Association currently includes the directors or chiefs of all states which have veterans Affairs agencies and the directors and or chiefs of Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. The Association is a vital coordinating and educational facility serving those agencies which fill the critical role of liaison between the federal structure of veterans services and entitlements and the considerable resources of the states devoted to serving the Nation's veterans and their families.

Timely and constructive dialogue with the Federal agencies and officials concerned with veterans affairs is maintained through the Washington Liaison Office of the NASDVA, currently headed by A. Leo Anderson, Chief of the District of Columbia Office of Veterans Affairs, National Commander of AMVETS in 1966-67, Past National President of NASDVA, and National Chairman of the Past National Commanders Organization in 1979, 80 and 81.

There are approximately 300 associate members (those other than Directors) spread across the several states, territories and the District of Columbia.

Addressing the criteria of the 91st Congress, the following is submitted:

1. The NASDVA is chartered by the District of Columbia, under charter dated March 12, 1973. The organization was founded at the behest of the Federal Re-training and Re-employment Administrator, General Greves B. Erskine, in 1946, and has operated continuously since in the interest of U.S. war veterans by serving the state agencies of veterans affairs.

2. The NASDVA is the only organization representing the state veterans Affairs agencies. Since its function is to coordinate the activities and purposes of the several state and territorial agencies and to serve as liaison between the governors and the concerned officials on the federal level, chartering by Congress is the only appropriate form of incorporation. A Congressional Charter would lend strength and credibility to the name of the organization, giving deserving national recognition to the only organization representing the Chiefs of the veterans affairs programs of the states and territories. The services provided by the members of NASDVA are available to veterans and their families without regard to affiliation with any veterans organization. Unlike most other veterans service organizations, NASDVA is composed only of those professionally concerned with veterans programs at the state level. Consequently membership in the Association by the recipients of the services is ordinarily inappropriate. The current policy of President Reagan of revitalizing the role of states in the administration of governmental functions and reducing the role of the Federal Government argues even more forcefully for recognition of NASDVA.

3. Past actions of NASDVA have demonstrated that it operates wholly for charitable, educational and patriotic purposes. It has demonstrated over the years that an organization of this kind is necessary to serve as a vital link in the efforts of the several states and territories in serving veterans.

4. That the NASDVA is completely non-partisan can readily be discerned from even a partial reference to the distinguished representatives of both political parties who have been publicly honored with its coveted "Man of the Year Award."

5. The national scope of NASEVA is self-evident in the very character of its membership, currently consisting of representatives from 48 states, 4 territories and the District of Columbia. No other organization exists which is performing the unique function of NASEVA in coordinating the efforts and policies of the state and territorial veterans affairs agencies. Its annual meetings in the Spring and Fall provide the most complete and thorough exchange of information and views of those professionally concerned with veterans affairs. A function which no other organization provides.

6. The purpose of this legislation is merely to recognize an existing organization chartered by the District of Columbia. It does not expand any corporate rights or relieve any corporate responsibilities established by the District's charter. Moreover, this legislation specifically requires compliance with the State/District laws governing the election of corporate officers and the responsibilities of the board of directors for the corporation. It also specifically requires compliance with existing State and District laws governing service of process.

7. In order to assure responsible and appropriate conduct on the part of the corporation, the legislation prohibits certain corporate acts and establishes certain requirements for the corporation. The legislation prohibits the loan or transfer of corporate assets to officers, members, or other persons (except for expenses), lobbying or other political activity by the corporation or the issuance of stock or the payment of dividends. The legislation further prohibits the corporation from claiming congressional approval or Federal Government authority for any of its activities. The legislation requires the corporation to keep certain records, to perform an annual audit and to report to Congress annually. Should the corporation engage in any prohibited activity or fail to perform any of the requirements established by this legislation, or if the corporation fails to maintain its tax exempt status, the Federal charter granted by this legislation will expire automatically as a matter of law.

8. In recognition of the merits of the organization, there is broad bipartisan support in the House for a Federal charter for the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Inc. H.R. 6348 currently has 171 cosponsors.

S-2215, the companion to H.R. 6348, was unanimously passed by the Senate on May 27, 1982.

On May 14, 1982, the Congressional Budget Office certified that no significant cost to the government would be incurred as a result of enactment of this (S-2215) legislation.

Mr. HALL. I have no questions.

Mr. Kindness, do you have any questions?

Mr. KINDNESS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to get for our record your views on this point. The first thought that came into my mind with respect to this proposed charter is that the members of the organization all represent State programs or State interests, and it seemed to me offhand that that would be an inappropriate basis for a Federal charter. Would you help me to understand why it is appropriate for a Federal charter?

Mr. ANDERSON. Mr. Kindness, in addition to providing the type of services that are available to the veterans residing in the State and/or their dependents, we are closely associated with the Federal Veterans' Administration Benefits Program, thus it does not solely involve itself in the specific of State related benefits. We do a lot of work with the Department of Defense relative to upgrading military discharges and appearing before traveling discharge review boards. We are very much involved with the veterans employment services at the state level, administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. We are also very much concerned with the federal benefits administered by the social agencies of the respective States. In this regard, we are involved with the social service type of programs benefiting veterans. The full gamut of technical areas of veterans benefit programs that we are experienced in and provide service to the needs of the veteran community at the State level is enormous in scope. In all instances we use Federal as well as local policy guidelines and technical directives where applicable.

Basically, with the living population of approximately 30 million veterans in today's society, our thrust in providing to veterans is concentrated on the vast majority of veterans who are nonaffiliated with established veterans organizations. The total membership of veterans organizations appears to number probably in the vicinity of 7 million. Therefore the vast majority of veterans that would and do seek assistance or benefits, contact the respective Governor's offices and the veterans affairs agencies at the State level for professional counsel and help in the areas of veterans benefits programs. So it goes beyond, sir, the interpretation that the text may seem to project.

Mr. KINDNESS. I guess maybe I might present this supposed parallel for clarification as to whether we have things out of focus. Suppose there was a national association of secretaries of state of the various States that deal with Federal elections, that deal with the Federal Government in various respects, but if they were to seek a Federal charter, would that seem appropriate? My response would be I think that is not appropriate, but is there a way we might differentiate the approach, the thinking?

Mr. ANDERSON. I think perhaps in one area that we are anxious to point out here, Mr. Kindness, would be that the amount of professional services that we provide, the dollar-and-cents services that represents a tremendous fiscal savings to the Federal Government, meaning the V.A. Veterans' Services Division personnel could be subject to considerable increase. If collectively, the amount of work that is being performed at the service level only, by our respective directors, their claims people, and technicians was interpreted in dollars and cents, the end result would reflect that there would be

a tremendous savings to the VA because additional hires would not have to be brought on board. I cannot address the parallel regarding elected State attorneys general or elected secretaries of State, vis-a-vis the State Directors of Veterans Affairs, but I suppose that "in-kind" organizations do exist. The State directors are either appointees of the Governor or have State civil service status.

Mr. KINDNESS. I am not positive they do. Perhaps there is another aspect that we might pursue for just a moment, and that is are there any advantages that you would see as being derived from having a Federal charter, anything that would follow as a result of having a Federal charter that—frankly, I would look at it as though if there is some advantage to the organization that would result from it, maybe we owe you that in terms of all that is done with respect to veterans programs. But if there is not an advantage, I am just not sure that there is something to be gained on any part by the Federal charter, since State incorporation would still be required and so on.

Mr. ANDERSON. Since 1946, of course, we have been in operation throughout the Nation and registered as a D.C. corporation in 1973. For a period of 36 years we have been laboring in the vineyard in a very visible, productive, accountable and nationally recognized fashion. Many of the respective Governors have frequently inquired of State directors if we had ever considered seeking a Federal charter. It would of course lend considerable credence and a higher degree of stature to the Federal agencies that we work in close association with and to the respective Governors' offices.

Mr. KINDNESS. It is pretty much in that area that the benefit would result, then, I take it.

Mr. ANDERSON. In one respect I would definitely say yes, sir. It would be an extremely prestigious honor, sir. Conversely, Mr. Kindness, our mission is to operate as professionals servicing the needs of veterans including the territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

Mr. KINDNESS. I happen to be one of the those who puts a great deal of importance on State and local government, and perhaps I view these things a little differently. I appreciate your answers to this. I just feel that I should say, to explain my line of questioning, that we for some years on this subcommittee have questioned where we are heading with Federal charters and whether we have been handling it correctly, and whether there should be any difference in the way these matters are approached in the future, because we simply do not have any way established by which we regularly deal with federally chartered organizations, and it is sort of like a Kentucky colonelcy. If anyone does not know, that is like a West Virginia Cherry River admiral's commission.

Mr. ANDERSON. I understand.

Mr. KINDNESS. That is in all honesty. I thank you very much for your patience with my questions.

Colonel PASSAMANECK. If I may address Mr. Kindness' question with one further statement, I think it might clarify the situation. I think we should emphasize that the National Association of State Directors does not presume to represent in any way the offices or positions of the States. Our mission is to not only to represent, but

also provide an educational and fraternal exchange between those individuals who happen to be directors in those States as individuals. So you see, we are not presuming to come in here as an organization representing the States. I think that should be clarified. I hope that helps to further answer the question of Mr. Kindness.

Mr. KINDNESS. Thank you. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HALL. Thank you for your testimony, both you gentleman, and I would like to make a part of the record a letter dated September 27, 1982, addressed to me by Marvin Leath of Congress of the 11th District of Texas and I will ask the reporter to make the part of the record.

[The information follows:]

MARVIN LEATH
11th District, Texas

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
308 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 525-6105

DISTRICT OFFICE:
325 Federal Building
Waco, Texas 76701
(817) 750-8800



Congress of the United States

September 27, 1982

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
PROCUREMENT AND
MILITARY NUCLEAR SYSTEMS
READINESS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CLAIMS
HOUSING AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND
EMPLOYMENT
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

The Honorable Sam B. Hall, Jr., Chairman
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
B351A Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for scheduling a hearing and mark-up on H.R. 6348, a bill I introduced granting a Federal Charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veteran's Affairs, Incorporated (NASDVA).

As you know, H.R. 6348 is cosponsored by over 170 of our colleagues. This is truly a non-partisan measure and the Senate version, S. 2215, has passed the Senate by a unanimous voice vote. Additionally, all of the veterans groups that have taken a position on this bill do support our efforts.

Mr. Chairman, this Association represents the directors and chiefs of the official veterans service agencies of the states, territories and the District of Columbia. NASDVA is important as a coordinating and educational institution and serves as a contact point between the Federal and State governments in giving superior service to our veterans and their families. The stated purpose of the corporation, found in H.R. 6348, will ensure that the corporation continues to serve our nation and our nations' veterans.

The Congressional Budget Office has stated that no significant cost to the government will occur because of this legislative proposal. It is important to note that the functions of NASDVA will save federal money and resources. A significant amount of money is saved by state personnel processing VA claims and forms thereby requiring fewer Veterans Administration personnel to perform these services.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 6348 will give very deserving national recognition to NASDVA. I wholeheartedly support the mark-up of this legislation.

Sincerely,

MARVIN LEATH
Member of Congress

ML:sf

Mr. HALL. I have no further questions. I would like to thank you gentleman for being here, and as I indicated earlier we do not have enough people here to mark up this bill, but we will do something, I hope, before we adjourn.

The subcommittee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:10 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]



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